



Alabama QSO Party

2014 Rules

(v. 03/10/2014)

Sponsored by the Alabama Contest Group

1. **Object:** For Alabama amateurs to make contact with amateur radio stations throughout the world. Stations outside of Alabama make contact with Alabama amateur radio stations and as many Alabama counties as possible.

2. **Contest Period:** 1600 UTC (11:00AM CDST), Jun 7th, 2014 to 0400 UTC (11:00PM CDST), Jun 8th, 2014. All stations may operate the full 12 hours contest period.

3. **Categories:**

(A) **Single Operator:** One person performs all operating and logging functions. Only allowed one transmitted signal on the air at a time.

(B) **Multi operators:** (NOTE: Only permitted for Alabama stations.)

(1) **Multi-Single:** Only one signal on the air at a time.

(2) **Multi-multi:** No more than one transmitted signal per band at any time.

(C) **Mobile:** Mobile is defined as a station that is self-contained (radio, antenna, power source capable of motion). No county line sitting.

(1) **Single Operator.** One person performs all the operating, logging and driving.

(2) **Single Operator with Driver.** One person performs all the operating and logging, but will have a separate non-operating driver. The driver may not assist the operator in any way with the contest.

(3) **Multi Operator.** More than one that share driving and operating duties.

(D) **Rover:** A portable station that operates from at least two different counties. This is NOT a mobile. This is like a Field Day setup.

(1) Making at least one contact from each county.

(2) Rovers must move the entire operating site at least 200 yards into a new county. County Line sitting is not permitted.

(3) Rover stations may be Single Op, Multi Op or Multi Multi categories.

(4) Rover may not use a pre-existing fixed station (antennas or radio station) setup.

(E) Club Competition:

- (1) **Alabama Clubs:** This can be any established group that comes together at their club's station for the express purpose of operating in the Alabama QSO Party. There is no limit on the number of operators/participants. Categories will be consistent with Multi-Single or Multi-Multi entries.

Note: Those clubs that may not have a club station may prior to the contest designate a specific member's station where their members may participate as a Multi-Single or Multi-Multi entry categories. Contact me by email for more details.

- (2) **Out of State Clubs:** This is for regular clubs, DX clubs, or contest clubs, individual participants may indicate their club in their log. NO Multi-Single or Multi-Multi operations. Individual scores will be accumulated for each club. So for example: if we received 3 entries for individuals from the Florida Contest Group then their score will be accumulated as a club score that will compete with other out of state clubs throughout the country. The log must reflect the club.

(F) School Competition: This can be any school in Alabama. All rules contained herein apply. At least 50% of the operators have to be students and 50% of the contact have to be made by the students.

4. **Power:** Three power output categories. Logs not showing power category will be listed as high power.

(A) QRP - 5 watts output or less.

(B) Low Power (LP) - 150 watts or less

(C) High Power (HP) - more than 150 watts output.

5. **Modes:**

(A) Mixed mode (Phone and CW)

(B) Phone only

(C) CW only

6. **Contest Exchange:**

(A) Alabama stations send signal report and county abbreviations. Abbreviations may have changed, please check the website for the correct ones.

- a. Alabama stations working other Alabama stations should log the actual county for the station they work.
- (B) W/VE stations (including KH6/KL7) send signal report and state or VE province.
- (C) DX stations (including KH2/KP4, etc) send signal report and DX (as the location).

7. Scoring:

(A) QSO points: CW QSOs count 2 points and phone QSOs count 1 point.

(B) Multipliers: Alabama Stations:

1. Maximum of 50 states (includes Alabama).

Note: District of Columbia counts as Maryland (MDC)

2. Thirteen Canadian provinces/territories:

1. Alberta [AB] (VE6, VA6)

2. British Columbia [BC] (VE7, VA7)

3. Manitoba [MB] (VE4, VA4)

4. New Brunswick [NB] (VE9)

5. Newfoundland and Labrador [NL] (VO1, VO2)

6. Northwest Territories [NT] (VE8)

7. Nova Scotia [NS] (VE1, VA1, CY9, CY)

8. Nunavut [NU] (VY0)

9. Ontario [ON] (VE3, VA3)

10. Prince Edward Island [PE] (VY2)

11. Quebec [QC] (VE2, VA2)

12. Saskatchewan [SK] (VE5, VA5)

13. Yukon [YT] (VY1)

3. Total possible multipliers for Alabama stations are 63 per CW or PH mode and 126 for mixed mode. Stations outside of Alabama are not affected by this change.

4. Multipliers can be counted once per mode.

5. Stations may be worked on multiple bands for QSO credit.

Alabama Station Scoring Example: For a low power station that works 25 CW contacts with 10 multipliers and 25 phone contacts with 10 multipliers:

25 (CW qsos) times 2 = 50 and 25 (PH qsos) times 1 = 25 (PH points) added together is 75 qsos points times 20 (mults 10 CW + 10 PH = 20 mults) = a total score of 1500 Points

(C) Multipliers: All other stations:

1. Maximum of 67 Alabama counties (please see the list of counties with abbreviations—as they have changed from previous years/contests).

2. Alabama Mobiles that change counties are considered to be a new station and may be contacted again for QSO points and/or multiplier credit.
3. Multiplier will be counted once per mode. Stations can be worked on multiple bands for QSO credit.
4. Total possible multipliers are 67 per CW or PH mode 134 for mixed mode.

Non-Alabama Station Scoring Example: For a QRP station that worked 25 CW contacts with 10 multipliers and 25 phone contacts with 10 multipliers

25 (CW qsos) times 2 points = 50 (CW points) + 25 (PH qsos) times 1 point = 25 (PH points) for a total of 75 qsos points times 10 CW mults + 10 PH mults = 20 total mults for a total of 1500 points (75 qsos point times 20 mults)

8. Suggested Frequencies:

- (A) Operate consistent with ARRL band plans and your license privileges for 10m to 160m. No WARC bands.
- (B) PH operation centered around 1.865, 3.855, 7.230, 14.250, 21.300, 28.450
- (C) CW Operation centered around 1.810, 3.545, 7.045, 14.045, 21.045, 28.045
- (D) Mobile Window:
 1. For Mobile CW stations: First 10 Khz of the general bands. For example 7025 to 7035 only mobile call CQ.
 2. For Mobile PH stations: First 10 kHz of the general PH band. For example 7175 to 7185.
- (E) Please avoid:
 - a. Fixed stations please do not call CQ in the recommended mobile window.
 - b. The SSTV on 20m. Recommend that mobiles operate from 14238 to 14248.
 - c. The Alabama Traffic net on 3.965 at 6:30PM CT.
 - d. 160m DX Window from 1.830 to 1.835.
 - e. Be considerate of other official nets that may be operating during our event. Thanks!

9. Miscellaneous:

- (A) County line sitting operation is NOT permitted for any entry.
- (B) CW contacts in CW portion only. Phone contacts in phone band only. No cross-mode contacts.

- (C) DX Cluster use is permitted for all categories.
- (D) Call signs and exchange information (county, state/province or DX) must be received by each station and recorded in the log to have a complete QSO.
- (E) DX stations should send (or give) their exchange as i.e., on CW: "599 DX" and on PH: "59 DX". DX is the correct entry for logging contacts with DX stations.
- (F) Call sign must indicate your DXCC country.
- (G) Out of state stations working from multiple states must submit separate logs for each state. This would be applicable to those out of state mobiles that are participating. Each state score stands alone and is not consolidated with other state operations.
- (H) Alabama stations working other Alabama stations must log the appropriate county information even though multiplier credit is given only for the state of Alabama. Alabama stations should NOT log AL as the exchange.
- (I) Alabama stations should call CQ AQP and stations outside Alabama should call CQ AL.
- (J) Alabama Mobiles should sign their callsign/mobile in Phone and callsign/m for CW. Alabama Mobiles use only one call sign. SUGGESTION: I have found that the following will work pretty good if in CW (would work the same on PH) you will send "CQ AQP KC4HW/M GENE". It lets everyone know that I am mobile and that I am in Geneva County. I used this convention during the GQP, FQP and AQP this year and had no problem with stations understanding that I was mobile, what county I was in and it is one call for the entire contest.
- (K) Mailing address for submission is:

Jim Johnson/KC4HW
6274 South County Road 49
Slocomb, AL 36375

10. Reporting/Log Submission:

- (A) Logs should be submitted no later than 30 days after the end of the contest. All entrants are encouraged to submit their logs electronically as an attachment to email.
- (B) The log file format is Cabrillo.
- (C) Email logs to: logs@alabamagsoparty.org
- (E) Prefer electronic logs, however, handwritten paper logs will be accepted. Please go to <http://www.alabamagsoparty.org> web site for a printable paper log.
- (F) All logs must indicate category (including power used), band, mode, date, time (UTC), calls sent and received and contest exchange information (to include Alabama County, US States, VE Provinces, DXCC countries. Mobiles must indicate in which County they were operating during contact/exchange.

11. **Awards:** Please see the website for information pertaining to plaques and certificates.

1. Must log a minimum of 100 valid AQP QSOs to be eligible for a plaque.
2. Only eligible to win one plaque.
3. Must log a minimum of 25 valid AQP QSOs to be eligible for a certificate.
4. Special certificates or awards can be made at the discretion of the contest manager.

Individuals and/or clubs/groups that are interested in sponsoring plaques and certificates, please contact me via email at kc4hw@alabamagsoparty.org.

12. See the website for logging software vendors that support the Alabama QSO Party.

13. Results will be posted to the Alabama QSO Party web site.

14. A Word about Corrections: I try to make the results, scoring and web pages and all other documents error free, but sometimes in an effort to get the information published, these little errors, typos, etc just creep into different documents. Please let me know if you see anything in the results, scoring or web pages that needs attention and I will get corrections made as soon as possible.

Jim Johnson, KC4HW
Alabama QSO Party Chairman